the world in deeper inspection

chaplette vii in sleepy hollow

oh, please. I think I've had enough of your teasing for an entire lifetime.

Ah! Zeynel, you're back!

Can I say? Your biscuits are exquisite.

Ye! I can't stop *munch* eating 'em!

Aw, thank you both!

Alhamdulillah, I tried my best

I suppose that's the one good thing about not dying, and that's having a lot of time to cook.

Thank you for inviting us to this... what will you call this? Candlelight book party?

It is truly a novel idea

Of course! It makes sense

Some of us have only just become friends

And we all love books, so why not bond over reading?

oh, and good food! ☆

[click]

Shall I start? We're going around reading our favourite stories

Here's one of mine - 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow'. It's by Washington Irving

Now, if I could just find the p -

SLAM!

eep!

?

What on earth was that?

The door... could it be the wind?

No, it's still tonight

I'll go check...

BAM

erm, hello...

Is this where I may find the local Ministry?

No, we're just friends having a party. But we're close to the Ministry...

What brings you over?

Oh no! I'm sorry to ruin your fun!

It's only... I want to lodge a missing item—

A big one— my head.

(another head?*)

Is that so?

*chaplette v

YES! It was stolen by fairies!

How so?

I was passing through the woods...

following the directions of the fairies

I followed them into the glade.

Next thing you know

my head is gone, along with the fairies!

Ah, and your name is...?

Lumina

Fortunately Miss Lumina

You don't have to see the Ministry; they would bring you to me anyway.

Alcott B. Grimsley - I handle the unresolved matters of the dead, and also the Night.

Looks like I'm taking an early leave, dear friends.

Should I come?

You mentioned fairies. Where were they?

Ah, of course.

By the southern woods, near the cliff.

Not this time, Bronx. Fairies are a different sort of dangerous. Your physical strength will be a liability

Besides, I know how much you were looking forward to this gathering.

My dear, don't you fret. I'll get your head. In the meantime, please enjoy the company of my friends.

I shall find myself back in this party soon enough!

hopefully

?

snorts

You be a good boy, beast.

feh.

Fairies.

All of the Night is mysterious.
We're the unknown that lives behind
every closed eye - in sleep or in death
but if there is any among us least
understood, it's the fairy folk.

They are beings
who exist in hiding,
in things small or
unnoticed.

They are designed in
varying sizes and creeds

for good

or for evil.

They are
volatile,
difficult,
sensitive.

[I dislike
them for
these reasons

It's best that you do not meet one.

You'll never know, if it would be your last meeting on this earth.

you, demon, you dare enter our sanctum.

Why?

You're brave, taking the head of a dullahan.

It was necessary

Necessary?

yes.

There is an ogre, who lives in the caves down yonder, who sleeps a hundred years – and wakes up, hungry for blood (fairy blood) (our blood) and eats a thousand of our kind again and again.

Tell us demon, why should we put up with this

Murder? Massacre?

The ogres time of waking is soon

but

with the head of this strong, most powerful fairy-

it'll satiate the hunger of the ogre. Enough to leave us alone, for now.

But that is still not your head to take. I'm here because I need to return it to its rightful owner.

Well, if you want it so much, what would you give?

What... what do you want from me?

A head for a head. Your head.

How is my 'demon' head of equal worth to a powerful fairy's?

No, it is not, but it'll do us good magics.

We can brew a potion with your head

And in its melted bone, we'll bathe ourselves, drenching us in poisonous sauce

hehe

The ogre will taste suffering for weeks

hehe

hmph.

if that's what you want. I'll go... and bring my crown. I'll cut it away for you.

Very well.

Very well.

We shall wait, but do not take long; the ogre awakens soon.

My head...

how am I to give them that?

I need it

to see

and think

and look dignified.

[rustle]

[rustle]

Good Lord, did that beast really foll—

Nevermind.

Hello, I need a head.

A... something that is like my head. But not my own.

snort

After you...

"As the enraptured Ichabod fancied all this, and as he rolled his great green eyes over the fat meadowlands..."

...the rich fields of wheat, rye, buckwheat...

Lumina, are you alright?

...

What is it, dearie?

I feel naked, without a head...

Plus there are so many sweets here.
It'd be a shame not to try them.
I don't want to be awkward...

That is a problem.

We make you a head.

Really, how?

Ah! We've easy solution!

We can find something. We'll build a head from all that.

It won't be hard. Zeynel's house is full of things.

hey!

You know what? He's right. I really have to clear the house sometime.

So why don't we do it now?

Come, lass, we'll have so much fun

Ah,

Welcome back.

I've what you desire.

Ofcourse, in your hands.

hehe

no more

hehe

on your neck

hehe

We fairies, we keep our promises.

Thank you, fairies.

Hah! Could you believe it?

huff

They couldn't tell horse from donkey!

It is fortunate we found that horse on the farm - well worth the effort.

Something is not right

what?

what's this?

This is no demon head.

It has no dark magic.

He tricked us!

Voila! Perfect.

Let's go home, beast.

thief

THIEF

thief

Thief

thief

Damn.

!

THIEF

Can you go faster?

snort

THIEF

thief

thief

thi

eish!

Running away isn't going to help-

Even if I turn back and return Lumina's head I've already offended them.

I'll die.

Well, I suppose there's only one reasonable place to go....

-Hyah!

Here's what we got

Dillons

Oh!

There are so many ways to make this.

How shall we start, lads?

squeak squeak

Oooh, thank you!

Here.

squeak squeak

...so? How is it?

I don't know if this is the right look for me...

ERM, ya..... it's not as sweet as you, ha ha...

Try this instead!

Thief thief thief

Eeekkkk

Hah!

They have ceased to follow us—

sighs

From the frying pan, into the fire...

So this is where the ogre sleeps... not a cozy spot for a hundred years' rest.

No, it really isn't. It hurts my back.

Oh! You gave me a fright.

As you should!

What are you doing here? Do you know that this is where Balthazar, the great destroyer of fairies, lives?

I had an inkling...

Ah! Brilliant! My reputation is still standing-

And of course, I see you've brought me a gift

Oh, oh non - yes, in fact. The head of a dullahan.

One of the most powerful of all fairies. Their magic is most delicious —

slurp

...Did I?

I'm so hungry.

grrrr

owwwll

Yes...

You must be...

After a century of of fasting, I would be famished too.

It's good that you've shown me respect. Otherwise—

Hahaha

Best not to know

Come, enter my cave. I'd love to show you welcome.

SQUAWK SQUAWK

Oh! The pie is ready!

I'll be right back~

Wait-!

May I go with you?

I'm sorry we haven't made a head that's right for you.

No, no it's alright. You're all so lovely. I simply... need to escape the crowd a tad.

I understand. I used to do the same when I was younger.

?

Thank you.

What's that?

Oh? It's a pumpkin, a plant from the Americas.

It's what this pie is made of!

It's a cute veggie. I rather like it...

Hmm, you know, Lumina...

It does have the right shape and size for a head.

Forgive my curiousity-

- but why must you hibernate?

No choice. Killing fairies is so much work.

You seen how pesky they are? Plus, all that bad magic is delicious, but difficult to digest...

They give me awful heartburn

This buffoon is hopeless. Sure, he kills and eats some fairies... and after? What about the rest? I will never leave this cave.

And you say your back hurts?

Yes, and my neck and feet. my everywhere!

I do have some relief for your troubles.

You do?

Since you were last awake, they made this little miracle.

Laudanum.

A holy panacea, of coughs, fever, but most effectively —

LAUDANUM

the alleviation of pains.

Let me see.

hmmm, it's not poison, is it?

no

I do want to try it, but to be sure, you must take it with me too.

Of course.

Yours will be a tad extra—

– because you've pains. I do not.

...

Fair enough

munch munch munch

sippp

You know what... you're right. I do feel better!

That's wonderful! Would you care for more?

Sure! Why not?

Glugglug

Woo! Oh! OH! I do feel GOOD

Mhmm, yes. Yes, you do

Whatever this medicine is.... laudunum? *wheeze*

Hehe *gasp* I need it, all my pain *wheeze* go-

fwoomp!

You're welcome.

You killed him.

You killed the ogre.

No one has ever challenged him.

He is the most cruel killer of fairies and yet -

-You tricked and vanquished him with your magic potion

Perhaps if you've sought outside help, we'd have righted this mess earlier.

Thank you demon.

Your deception is now forgiven.

We're in debt.

It is... no trouble at all, fairies.

Alcott!

Did you manage to find the head?

Did I? No, it is lost forever.

I'm very sorry, Miss Lumina.

That's alright-

I already got a head!

Look! It's very pretty! With a fancy bow too!

I love it—

-because I made it with my new friends.

Thank you all! I'm so happy!♥

Tweet!

So long, friends. May death find you well!

We've just finished reading everyone's stories. It's your turn now.

Oh, oh yes indeed. What transpired earlier is definitely

quite a story.

end.

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